

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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E. O. 11652: N. A.

TAGS: CI PFOR US

SUBJECT: STREITHORST INTERVIEW WITH ALLENDE

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF STREITHORST INTERVIEW WITH
ALLENDE AS TELEVISED ON NBC NEWS, APRIL 7:

BEGIN. AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ALLENDE

GARRICK UTLEY: IN A MOMENT THE MARXIST PRESIDENT
OF CHILE REACTS TO AN AMERICAN EFFORT TO BLOCK HIS
ELECTION.

(COMMERCIAL.)

A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE THIS PAST WEEK CONCLUDED ITS
INVESTIGATION OF ITT, THE INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND
TELEGRAPH COMPANY' S ACTIVITIES IN CHILE WHERE IT IS
VERY ACTIVE, AND IT DISCOVERED THAT ITT HAD GONE TO
THE U. S. GOVERNMENT -- TO THE CIA, IN FACT, -- AND
OFFERED UP TO ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP FINANCE AN
EFFORT TO BLOCK THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF SALVADOR
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ALLENDE, A MARXIST WHO HAD THREATENED TO NATIONALIZE ITT'S HOLDINGS IN CHILE.

THE OFFER WAS NEVER TAKEN UP BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. THE UNITED STATES KEPT ITS HAND OUT OF THE ELECTION AND ALLENDE WON.

PRESIDENT ALLENDE KEPT SILENT ABOUT THE SENATE ITT INVESTIGATION UNTIL HE TALKED WITH OUR CORRESPONDENT, TOM STREITHORST.

(FILM CLIP.)

TOM STREITHORST: THIS IS THE BASIS OF THE WHOLE CHILE- ITT AFFAIRS, THE CHILEAN TELEPHONE COMPANY, AN ENTERPRISE WHICH IS OWNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND VALUED AT 153 MILLION DOLLARS.

NATIONALIZATION OF THE PHONE COMPANY FORMED PART OF THE PLATFORM OF MARXIST SALVADOR ALLENDE PRIOR TO HIS ELECTION AS CHILE'S PRESIDENT IN 1970. AFTER TAKING POWER, ALLENDE SEIZED CONTROL OF THE COMPANY WHILE BEGINNING TALKS WITH ITT OVER POSSIBLE FORMS OF PAYMENT. THEN CHILE BROKE OFF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND ANNOUNCED PLANS TO EXPROPRIATE THE COMPANY WHEN THE ITT SCANDAL CAME INTO THE OPEN.

PRESIDENT ALLENDE REFRAINED FROM ALL COMMENT DURING SENATOR CHURCH'S INVESTIGATION OF THE AFFAIR. THEN, IN AN INTERVIEW HE BROKE SILENCE, DESCRIBING THE HOLDING OF THE INVESTIGATION IN WASHINGTON AS " EXTRAODINARILY GOOD."

SALVADOR ALLENDE: (SPEAKS IN SPANISH)

TRANSLATOR: THE INFORMATION WE RECEIVED FROM PUBLISHED NEWS REPORTS, THE TIMELY BACKGROUND INFORMATION WE RECEIVED, HAVE ALLOWED US TO ONCE AGAIN TO INFER THAT WHAT WE STATED SOME TIME AGO WAS EXACT. IT& T TRIED TO INVERVENE IN CHILEAN POLITICS. IT& T PLANNED AN OPERATION INTENDED TO PREVENT THE PEOPLE, THROUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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ME, FROM COMING INTO POWER. CHILE WAS AT THE POINT OF

UNDERGOING UNDER THE EVIL INFLUENCE OF THESE COMPANIES THAT HAD GONE AS FAR AS TO OFFER MONEY. CHILE WAS AT THE POINT OF SUFFERING VIOLENCE THAT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN US TO THE POINT OF VIOLENT CONFRONTATION AND CIVIL WAR.

PRESIDENT ALLENDE: (SPEAKS IN SPANISH.)

STREITHORST: I ASKED ALLENDE IF HE BELIEVED THAT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN IMPLICATED IN THE AFFAIR.

PRESIDENT ALLENDE: (SPEAKS IN SPANISH.)

TRANSLATOR: I HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD ALLOW ME TO MAKE SUCH GRAVE CHARGES.

PRESIDENT ALLENDE: (SPEAKS IN SPANISH.)

TRANSLATOR: THE STATEMENTS MADE SAID SOME GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE APPROACHED REFUSED THE PROPOSITION MADE BY THIS COMPANY.

PRESIDENT ALLENDE: (SPEAKS IN SPANISH.)

STREITHORST: ALLENDE SAID THAT PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT CHILE WAS BREAKING COVERSATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OVER THE ITT AFFIAR WERE TOTALLY ERRONEOUS.

PRESIDENT ALLENDE: (SPEAKS IN SPANISH.)

TRANSLATOR: ERRONEOUS. ABSOLUTELY ERRONEOUS INFORMATION. WE HAVE NOT BROUGHT UP IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES THE PROBLEM OF IT& T.

(CROWD CHEERS ALLENDE AS HE WALKS TO HIS OFFICE.)

STREITHORST: ALLENDE DENOUNCED ITT AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES GENERALLY. BUT HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL, EVEN CONCILIATORY TOWARD THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.
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CHILE HAS AN ENORMOUS FOREIGN DEBT, WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO DEFER PAYING. TO DO THIS, THE AGREEMENT OF WASHINGTON IS NECESSARY, AND SO FAR THIS HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.

I EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO ALLENDE, WHEN, ON RETURNING TO CHILE, I SAW THAT SOME ITT CONCERNS WERE STILL DOING BUSINESS HERE.

(FILM CLIP SHOWS HOTEL CERRERA AND THE SHERATON HOTEL.)

TWO HOTELS, A FACTORY MANUFACTURING TELEPHONES, AND AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY.

ALLENDE SMILED AND SAID, THIS PROVES HIS GOVERNMENT' S BROADMINDEDNESS AND TOLERANCE. END TEXT. ROGERS

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